

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (previously presented) In a composition which comprises a diagnostic agent in a container which has a silica coating on the inner surface, the improvement comprising the diagnostic agent including a non-radioactive metal complex or a hyperpolarised material.
2. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic agent includes a non-radioactive metal complex.
3. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2 wherein the metal complex is an MRI contrast agent.
4. (previously presented) The composition of claim 2 wherein the metal complex is an X-ray contrast agent.
5. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diagnostic agent includes a hyperpolarised material.

6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 5 wherein the hyperpolarised material includes hyperpolarised  $^{129}\text{Xe}$  or  $^3\text{He}$  gas.
7. (previously presented) The composition of claim 5 wherein the hyperpolarised material comprises one or more hyperpolarised  $^{13}\text{C}$  atoms.
8. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the silica coating is deposited by PCVD.
9. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the silica coating comprises pure  $\text{SiO}_2$ .